

CONTEXT

- Armed group activity in the Lake Chad Basin has led to widespread displacement and disruption of livelihoods and markets in Niger’s Diffa Region since 2017. Separately, beginning in 2018, insecurity in the tri-border region between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger—including in Niger’s Tahoua and Tillabéri regions—has fueled a displacement and humanitarian crisis across much of western Niger. In addition to these two concurrent security crises, chronic food insecurity, extreme weather events, and the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) have further contributed to Niger’s humanitarian crisis. Between June and September 2020, heavy rains led to severe flooding across Niger, affecting more than 281,000 people and leading to widespread population displacement. Volatile security conditions and limited infrastructure have restricted humanitarian access to populations in need in Niger, particularly in Tahoua and Tillabéri.
- In early 2021, the UN estimated that 3.8 million people across Niger—or approximately 16 percent of the population—would require humanitarian assistance in 2021, an increase of more than 30 percent from January 2020. The UN has requested \$523.2 million to provide humanitarian assistance to 2.1 million people in 2021.
- As of May 31, Niger hosted approximately 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and nearly 241,000 refugees, primarily from neighboring Mali and Nigeria, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Approximately 127,000 Nigerian refugees and 105,000 IDPs were residing in Diffa, while Tahoua and Tillabéri hosted an estimated 138,000 IDPs and 57,000 Malian refugees. Security conditions in Tahoua and Tillabéri sharply deteriorated in early 2021, generating increased displacement and limiting access to basic services.
- Food insecurity remains widespread in Niger, particularly in areas impacted by armed group activity, which has restricted agricultural production and access to markets. At the peak of the June-to-September 2020 lean season, a Cadre Harmonisé (CH) food security analysis found that approximately 2 million people across Niger were food-insecure, and nearly 2.3 million are projected to experience food insecurity during the 2021 lean season. In 2020, more than 3 percent of Niger’s population experienced severe wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition, representing a 26 percent increase compared to 2019, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).



ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is providing both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Niger through UN agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID/BHA is prioritizing support for IDPs, Malian and Nigerian refugees, and host communities, particularly food assistance, with the goal of meeting emergency needs while developing long-term community resilience. At the regional level, USAID/BHA supports ER4 activities focused on supporting the development of stronger humanitarian structures in West Africa.

- In partnership with UNICEF, the UN World Food Program (WFP), and NGO partners, USAID/BHA provides food assistance for populations in need in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, and Tillabéri regions. USAID/BHA food assistance programming includes the provision of food vouchers and cash transfers for food, as well as in-kind food assistance. USAID/BHA also provides nutrition assistance in Niger, including supporting malnutrition screening and treatment.
- In addition to food assistance, USAID/BHA supports a wide range of emergency humanitarian needs in Niger, including providing agriculture, economic recovery and market systems, health, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support. For example, through the USAID/BHA-funded Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), three NGOs are providing health assistance through the operation of mobile clinics serving remote areas of Tahoua and Tillabéri. Between September 2020 and March 2021, RRM partners reached nearly 152,000 people in Tahoua and Tillabéri, including nearly 46,000 IDPs, with health assistance.
- In 2020, USAID/BHA began supporting activities to address humanitarian needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. USAID/BHA is supporting partners providing health and WASH services in Niger, including handwashing stations, WASH services and supplies, and training in COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as training and capacity-building for local health facilities and staff.
- USAID/BHA has supported CARE in Maradi since 2018 with the goal of addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition for residents of Chadakori, Guidan Roudji, and Guidan Sori departments. The NGO provides health and nutrition support with an emphasis on promoting maternal and child health, including capacity-building, in-kind food and medical assistance, and technical support for community organizations. CARE provided assistance to more than 9,200 women and children under two years of age in Maradi between October 2020 and January 2021; in total, CARE aims to reach 96,000 people across Maradi with support from USAID/BHA by 2023.
- With USAID/BHA support, Save the Children Federation (SCF) is supporting community-led efforts to improve food security, health, nutrition, and WASH conditions in Zinder Region. The NGO is providing technical support and training to help village development committees, which manage collective resources, prepare for and respond to crises, as well as improving health and WASH infrastructure. Between 2018 and 2023, SCF aims to support 27,000 households across 150 villages in Zinder.
- Through a USAID/BHA-funded program, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working to improve food security outcomes and community resilience among vulnerable households in Zinder’s Dungass and Magaria departments. Between September and December 2020, CRS provided nutrition assistance to more than 5,500 children ages 0–5 and nearly 1,700 pregnant women, as well as agriculture and finance training to more than 300 people. CRS is also working with community organizations to create village development plans in an effort to increase preparedness for future shocks.

USAID/BHA Funding in Niger ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$56,539,196	\$55,832,701	\$112,371,897
FY 2021	\$43,013,526	\$41,912	\$43,055,438

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 29, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.